

Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

FEBRUARY 2009

Committee to begin work on updating Club By-Laws

One of the things I really want to do in my first term, and certainly before the next election, is update our club by-laws. For instance, as written there is no mention of the Internet, we all know what that is, and so no allowances for doing things on-line. That is a major point for improvement - should be clear to everyone it is needed. There are other things which need updating and modernizing and just plain fixing in some cases.

Submitted by:
Bill Perkins KB4KFT

With some of the events the club has been starting up, and holidays, and \$5 a gallon gas, I stopped pushing the By-Laws Committee in mid-October - folks (including me) had other things to do and other concerns. Now the holidays are gone, gas is almost OK, and club events in the works are in the works. It is time to restart the committee and modernize the clubs rules.

We have four volunteers at the moment, folks who are willing to donate time and energy on this project - and already have done some good work. We have a clean set of by-laws to start with and it is time to start digging. I am asking for a few more volunteers for this project. Any club member who is current in their dues would be welcome. A committee of about seven would be perfect, in my opinion. Marianne H, Charles G, Jim R and me (Bill P) are currently on the committee.

(Continued on page 4)

ARC members invited to attend event hosting STS-126 pilot on Feb 17th

Jerry M. George N4UGI, a Henderson Middle School Teacher, is inviting members of The Atlanta Radio Club to his school on February 17th to meet the pilot of the Endeavor STS-126. The mission was flown on Nov. 14-30, 2008 and included 4 Hams.

Col. Eric Boe, who is not a ham himself, graduated from Henderson when it was a high school. He was a member of the Civil Air Patrol when he was a student and that is what got him interested in flying. "Since I am a member of CAP, and a some what HAM, it would be an honor if some could come." Jerry mentions. Here is the link on him <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/boe-ea.html>

It would be a great opportunity to show off your gear to the students. The date is 17 Feb. 9:00AM to 12:00PM. About an hour of mingling prior to speaking to the students.

For more info, you can contact N4UGI at Jerry_M_George@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us



Col. Boe - Pilot STS126

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Don't forget: Meeting at the Red Cross HQ Thurs. February 5th

THE ATLANTA HAM

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Submit articles:

John Talipsky N3ACK
385 Madison Chase Dr
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS
THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!**

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Legislation could affect Ham Radio in Georgia

Source: The ARRL GA Section Newsletter

Uh oh. The GA legislators are back in session, and there are a couple of bills that bear watching by the amateur radio community. The primary targets of these bills are mobile cell phone users, but HB19, introduced by Mary Margaret Oliver, paints amateur radio operators with the same broad brush, and that's under the the label of "driving while distracted- use of wireless communications device". No problem with being held accountable for actually contributing to an accident, for WHATEVER reason, but there is some concern that, in the unlikely event that this bill should pass as written, that over-zealous interpretation of it could jeopardize our right to even have a radio in our vehicle. Her bill is very similar to the one she introduced a few years back, and if you remember, because of the letters you fine folks wrote to your legislators the last time around, she amended the wording of her bill such that amateur radio operators and emergency responders were excluded. Some of you are one step ahead of me and have already contacted your legislator about this bill's most recent incarnation, and I thank you, but for those of you who haven't, I'd suggest that you take a look at how it is currently worded. You can find it at http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/fulltext/hb19.htm.

The other bill, HB23, does a better job of focusing on the proper target, and even has an exclusion that covers us. http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/fulltext/hb23.htm

But, as you all know, these bills have a way of changing, so it wouldn't hurt to keep an eye on that one, as well. If you aren't sure who your state legislator is or how to contact him, you can find that info by entering your full zip code at <http://www.votesmart.org>. The very savvy RICK BLACK, K4RAB, suggests that, since both of these bills have now been referred to the Motor Vehicle Committee, that it might be an even better idea to target your letter-writing specifically towards the members of this committee: Chairman- TOM RICE; (who also happens to be a sponsor of HB 23) Vice Chairman- MATT DOLLAR; Secretary- TIM BEARDON; Members- RICK AUSTIN; PAUL BATTLES; ROGER BRUCE; MICHAEL HARDEN; TERRY JOHNSON; BOBBY PARHAM; ALAN POWELL; and JOHN YATES.

For more articles like this, check out our ARRL GA Section page at www.arrl-ga.org/

"Town Hall" scheduled for February 5th ARC Meeting

The next meeting of the Atlanta Radio Club, to be held February 5, will be a "Town Hall" type meeting. Your ARC officers have been serving for about 6 months now and we want to know what you think we're doing right, doing wrong (surely not!) and/or should be doing. One former mayor of NYC used to ask "Hey, how'm I doing?" as often as he could. (Koch method?) But we haven't been that, um, solicitous. So, here's your chance to tell us how we're doing and to help us to provide the services and activities that you, our members, want. Possible discussion points:

Meetings: Too long? Too Short? Location? Are there certain topics you'd like to see presentations on? Special Interest Groups: Should special interest groups (SIGS) be formed for, say, 80M? 6M? DX? LX? CW? Digital? Sat Ops? Activities: Any places in town that we should take a field trip to? TV Station? Radio Station? HRO? Our Hamfest is coming up in June. We'll be asking you to help make it a another success. Should we also do a Field Day this year? Where should it be held? Should we participate in the Strange Antenna Challenge? Individuals usually do it on their own. Anything else? Classes: Are there classes that we should offer? CW? HamCram? Antenna building? Contesting: Should we participate in contests as a club? Community Service: Are there community service activities that the club should pay more or less attention to? ARES? SkyWarn? Our repeaters: Are there features you'd like the repeater system to offer? Our repeaters are pretty robust but there is always room for improvement. Do we want to start any more nets? If yes, who would be net control and more...The ARC has a long history of service to the Atlanta area ham community and to the public. Help us continue the tradition by giving us your feedback. See you at 7PM 1955 Monroe Dr NE, Atlanta, GA

METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

Athens, GA

1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm 2095 W. Broad Street.

Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

Cartersville, GA

1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Contact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Gainesville, GA

1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months
Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net

Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson St across from the Georgia Military Academy. Contact: OTIS MURPHY W4OY
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net

Peachtree City, GA

1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Contact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

Snellville, GA

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm
at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA
(770) 498-7759

Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC

Alford Memorial Radio Club
2nd Saturday of ODD-months at 8:30 am
Stone Mountain United Methodist Church,
5312 W. Mountain St.
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN
(770) 978 3179 Email: bvarone@juno.com

East Atlanta and Gwinnett County, GA

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
3rd Sunday of each month, 3-5PM
Gwinnett Public Library—Five Forks Branch
2780 Five Forks Trickum Rd Lawrenceville GA

Atlanta, GA

4th Sunday of each month, 2:30pm GATECH
Visit <http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/w4aql/test.html>

How 'bout a Foxhunt for May!

The Walton County (Georgia) Emergency Radio Club (WCERC) is planning a Fox Hunt during the CQ Magazine Worldwide Fox Hunting Weekend in May. Atlanta Radio Club members are invited to participate at WCERC's kit building session on February 16th in Loganville and at the Fox Hunt in May.

This is a great opportunity to learn about and/or brush up on our Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) skills.

Kit Information: <http://www.handi-finder.com>

Please contact David, AI4JI at www.wcerc.org concerning the purchase of kits and other details.

February 16 Handi-Finder Build Day - AI4JI

May 9,10 CQ Worldwide Fox Hunting Weekend (These dates may be changed to another weekend in May. Updates will follow.)

NEWS, NOTES, & CLASSIFIEDS...

Congratulations K2UFT!

Dick Bentley, K2UFT, says it took him 52 years, during which he rarely exceeded 100W, and never used anything more exotic than an 80 M loop or dipole. But, by golly, he did it!! Confirmation of his contacts with 345 entities recently earned him a place on the prestigious DXCC Honor Roll. CONGRATULATIONS, Dick. That's quite an accomplishment.

Source: ARRL GA Section News

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

28 FEBRUARY Dalton Hamfest #27 www.w4drc.com

Talk-In: 145.230(-) no tone

21 MARCH Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club www.w4bti.org

Talk-In: 146.880 - offset (PL100)

2 MAY Birmingham Hamfest

6 JUNE Georgia State Convention Atlanta Radio Club W4DOC

www.atlantahamfest.com **Talk-In:** 146.820 (PL 146.2)

Sunday Night Net: All amateurs are invited to check into the Sunday Night Net at 8:00 PM on the 146.82 repeater. This net features comments from all check-ins, club news from club officers and committee chairpersons, a swap shop, and a discussion topic, if requested. 224.34 and 444.825 are normally linked in as well for the Sunday Night Net.

Rag-Chewing Etiquette

After a discussion with a few people on manners someone suggested an article

Submitted by:
Bill Perkins KB4KFT

needed to be written. Seeing how I had just stepped away from the

radio for a bit I got drafted. So what I decided to do was write about good practice and my pet peeves (which I will call bad practice).

But first a comment. One of the precepts of HAM'g is to get the message through clearly. Whether working EmCom or just rag-chewing during drive time this is a goal we should all be shooting for, right? And I am guilty too of getting lost in what I am saying and dragging on for a bit. An occasional gaffe makes us human - consistent gaffes makes us inconsiderate HAMs.

Time in Transmission. Just because



Photo: Sean Morgan K4ZF shmorgan.com

By-Laws ... continued

(Continued from page 1)

As we progress on this there will be regular updates on the Yahoo group. Comments are encouraged. At some point the committee will bring the new by-laws before the club, after or as a regular meeting, for comment. At some point they will be brought before the club for a vote.

If you are interested in serving on this committee contact me. My email address is kb4kft@billperkins.us or kb4kft@arrl.net.

There will be probably two face-to-face committee meetings (at a restaurant where I will get you fed!). Most of the work done either by email or after regular meetings.

This is not going to be hard work, no need to take days off or cancel important engagements. But it will take some time and some thought and discussion - we want to do this right.

I would like to get things rolling by the first of February so don't wait too long.

the repeater will time out in five or six minutes does not mean every key-down needs to use every second of that time. Yet some folks seem to want to go for the record - how close can they get to time-out with out actually getting there - explore the edges of time-out land. Is there anything that needs to be said in a single key-down that needs more than two minutes of time? If so I probably want it in writing first so I can follow along and make notes.

Part of this is also repeating oneself. That is as in saying the same thing more than once, or perhaps rephrasing the same idea, saying it in different words, to make sure the idea gets across - either the first time or subsequent times. One idea expressed three different ways

in one key-down is still one idea - just smeared around some. Repetition for the sake of holding the key down just a little longer perhaps? Or just sloppiness? Does it matter?

Speed I. Some folks talk really slowly, that is natural for them. Rather than try to talk faster why not try to say less at one time? Sometimes I find that I am nodding off towards the end of a key-down and have already forgotten what was said at the start. Just how did he get from talk of antenna length to trimming a dog's toe-nails? I got lost there somewhere. Perhaps it is my shortened attention span?

Speed II. Some folks talk so fast it is hard to understand anything. I hear a buzzing sound then realize some-

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The Signman of Baton Rouge



The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a Silver background with blue letters and the Club Logo in gold. The distinctive Atlanta skyline; designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO, makes this name tag unique.

Go online to order...Ask for the Atlanta ARC badge!

PO Box 84107
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4107 USA
(225) 757-1545 Phone
225-208-1545 Fax
Toll-Free 877-SIGNMAN
[Http://thesignman.com](http://thesignman.com)



Etiquette...

(Continued from page 4)

where in that blast of mono-tone rapid fire audio there was a question and I missed it. Combine raw speed with repetition and you get a key-down that is demoralizing... not only did I not get it but I did not get it three or four times.

For some the audio starts at about the third syllable. Hint: press the button *then* talk. Any other ordering of these actions does not work quite as well as the basic press-then-talk sequence.

Time Between Transmissions. Let see if we can overheat the repeater by insuring it is transmitting at least 97% of the time. In other words, on your mark, get set, and as as soon as you hear the other person unkey key down. The only delay between one person dropping and the other keying is the speed of impulses along nerves and muscle reaction time.

I suspect some people sit on weekends exercising their thumbs to get the minimum delay time. Press-release, press-release. Like Olympic swimmers they try to get key-down to a no-thought reflex-only action.

Rotation. With more than four of five people in the mix using a rotation

is a nice way to give every one a chance to talk. Good rotation is like smoothly flowing water, slick and calm. Problems come when you have four people doing clean hand-offs and one or two that let the ball just drop. Those just-drop-it folks become like junk cars sitting in a creek bed. Downstream are swirls of chaos and confusion that go on for some time. Oh sure, fish may find a place to live in these rusted out hulks. But fish don't talk on HAM radio.

The other part of this is non-rotational rotation. "Over to you X" followed by X saying "Let's see if I have it" or words to that effect, and unkeying to listen - every time. Of course you have, it was just handed to you, run with it. Take it on faith that since you are keying up at ninja speed no one else was able to get in there and you have it.

And the other other part of that it: the person who wants to come in who counts to seven or nine or twelve after an un-key so as to be certain they are OK then keyes up with and double exactly with the next person in rotation. Be nice, leave some room for someone else to get in, and you get rewarded by some one expecting you to wait another three seconds after the five seconds you waited. Leave

extra room and folks think you nodded off and pass over you.

Non-rotation. It does happen and is amazing when it does. Doesn't happen around here though. I've been in places where five or more people can be on the repeater smoothly passing control from one to the other with nary a "over to you" type comment ever made. Hardly ever hear any doubles. This falls into my pet peeve category 'cause I can't do it. If I can't then no one should and so it must be wrong in some way.

Burping the Repeater. I was told I needed to include this one. Legal, probably not, since no call signs are given this practice is really sending unidentified transmissions and is a no-no according to FCC rules. But since I do it from time to time, I'll admit it, it must not be too bad. Still, hit the repeater once and it comes back... OK, I can live with that. But what's up with these people who do it several times in a row? Like: "my car has moved twenty feet down the road - wonder if I am still in repeater range? one way to find out! Hit it again!" Come on, if your signal is that marginal no one is going to want to talk to you anyway.

Their reasoning goes "I can barely
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Southeastern D-STAR Net A Success

The Southeastern D-STAR Weather Net was created using the D-STAR digital voice and data technology to allow amateurs to link systems and communicate across the southeastern US, an area prone to severe weather conditions. With the rapidly growing number of D-STAR users and repeaters across the Southeast, the ability to use these systems to communicate across the wide area and support emergency communications has been created.

Alabama was an early leader with a statewide deployment of D-STAR repeaters. Georgia is creating a statewide network of D-STAR repeaters using the television towers of Georgia Public Broadcasting. South

Carolina plans to overlay their existing statewide network of analog repeaters with D-STAR repeaters. Many areas of Florida are already covered with D-STAR systems.

The weekly net allows training in net communications over a wide area digital network of linked repeaters. Check-ins are facilitated using the "quick key" format. Since call signs are automatically included with each D-STAR transmission, users simply key for one second to send their call. Net Control sees all call signs and recognizes each station.

The net was used during last summer's hurricane season linking several EOCs across the southeast. During the winter "off season" for severe

weather, a short program is being presented every other week during the net on topics such as repeater linking and the D-RATS data software. Each week, 35 to 40 stations on 17 to 25 repeaters across the southeast check into the weekly net.

The net takes place each Sunday evening beginning at 9:00 pm ET, 8:00 pm CT. D-STAR users should check with their local D-STAR repeater operators to see if they participate in the net. More info or contact John Davis. -- John A. Davis, WB4QDX, District Emergency Coordinator - GPB, Georgia Section ARES ■

South Fulton ARES Update

Hey Everyone, I just wanted to send out an update on the progress of the South Fulton ARES.

I had a meeting with the Atlanta-Fulton Emergency Operation Center yesterday and they are very excited to start working with us. One of our goals that we have discussed is to have all of the cities in Fulton County capable of being manned by an amateur operator. This would offer redundancy in communications as well as the ability to take damage or situation reports directly from the weather net and get it to the people that need it in a more timely manner. The second part of the plan is to have spotters in the field to send reports back to the EOC via the Weather Net or an Emergency net. We will also be working with Hospitals and other key locations in the county to place operators at those locations as well.

The Operations Officer at the EOC has also offered the use of the EOC for us to hold our monthly meetings. I am still working out the details, but my proposed plan is to have the Monthly ARES meeting on the first Saturday of the month at either 10:00am or 11:00am and for it to last about 2 Hours +/- . This would start in March since the plan is already in place for the February meeting.

What we need at this point now that there is some direction for the groups are additional volunteers. Ideally we would need people that could be accessible to the Fulton EOC and/or be able to man the EOC in the city that you live in or are near within Fulton County. We will also be looking for certified Skywarn Spotters in the field to send back reports of damage or severe weather.

The only training that is currently required to work the EOC locations is the FEMA training courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800. This covers the Incident Command Structure and the National Information Management System. These are the standard that all

emergency responders nationwide use. Links are available from the ARES website at www.southfultonares.org under the training link on the left side.

That pretty much covers the update for now.

73, Ryan Ingoglia K5NRP

Some ham radio videos from yesteryear to start of your New Year.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBGldf0VjQ4>

W\$DOC REPEATER NEWS & NOTES

All three repeaters require a CTCSS tone of 146.2 Hz.

146.820 (-) (IRLP Node 4550) 224.340 (-) 444.825 (+) (IRLP Node 5070)

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/ Peachtree City during inclement weather.

D-Star Repeaters (Bank of America Tower)

145.350 (-0.6 MHz) W4DOC C 444.600 (+5.0 MHz) W4DOC B

1282.60 (-12 MHz) W4DOC A 1297.625 (Data) W4DOC D

D-Star on Stone Mountain (Joint ARC/GA ARES)

145.960 (+2.5 MHz) WX4GPB C 444.700 (+5.0 MHz) WX4GPB B

1282.700 (-12 MHz) WX4GPB A 1297.125 (Data) WX4GPB D

***** The bank building staff need to power off the W4DOC system sometime for a few hours between 9PM Saturday, February 21, and 5AM Sunday.**

Sunday Tech Session

Submitted by: Bill Perkins KB4KFT

The monthly meeting of the "Second Sunday Tech Session" will be Sunday, February 8th at 3:00p in the main conference room at the main administration building of Dekalb Peachtree Airport (PDK) in Chamblee. The building is at the end of the main entrance to the airport - just follow the road off Clairemont down to the cul-de-sac parking lot at its end. The conference room is in the building marked "Epps". Come in the main entrance take the stairs at the left, the room is on the left at the top of the stairs - room 227. There will be a sign on the outside door.

Topic for the month: HF digital, PSK31, RTTY, and whatever else

comes up. We will have places for four stations to set up radios, computers and other hardware so feel free to bring your rig (power supply would be nice too) and computer. Because of antenna lengths we will be using 10 meter and low power to send and receive between participants.

This is an excellent opportunity to set up and play with your station. You can send something then walk twenty steps and see what was received - that makes it a lot easier to see and understand what is going on. Also, if you are an old hand at these things feel free to come and show us what you have learned, sharing is a key part of our Sunday Sessions.

ATLANTA HAMFEST 2009

Sponsored by: ARRL
and The Atlanta Radio Club
W4DOC

Gates Open: 8:00AM—3:00PM Admission: \$5 (Under 18 Free) Tailgate Set-Up : 6:30 AM Saturday



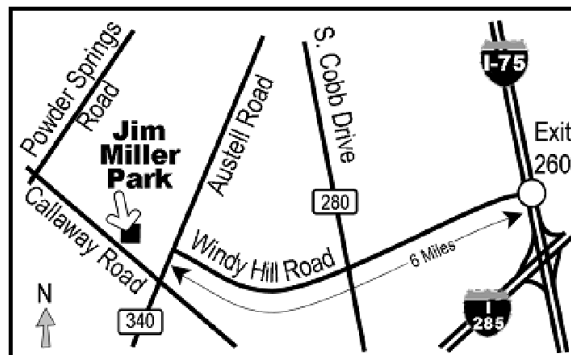
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SATURDAY JUNE 6TH

Jim Miller Park, Cobb Co.

For more info:
John Talipsky, N3ACK,
385 Madison Chase Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
770-995-6446 or 678-618-2190
Email: johnn3ack@comcast.net

www.atlantahamfest.com



Etiquette...

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hear the repeater return but can hit it easily every single time. That means I have one hot transmitter or antenna on my car!". Check out the phrase "remote receiver" before you start bragging around town. With our repeaters system you can be full quieting into the machine and still barely able to hear it at all. I have experienced that a few times myself, way out north I-75, way out north on I-85, way out east on I-20... just way out sometimes.

Long to short - hitting the repeater ain't talking on it and it is there to talk on.

Making Noises. Sad people, truly sad with such a neat system and so many people to talk to and that is the best they can do. They don't bother me at all - I feel sorry for

them. And if you have not noticed, most of them have such crummy stations we can talk right through and over them - hardly even notice they are there. All that money and time on VHF gear and... nothing.

Radios making noises. This one does bother me. Some folks have these surplus VHF rigs that want to send a block of code after each key release. That is neat for public service, kind a dumb for amateurs unless you are in a search and rescue mission and even then not too good as no one wants to hear that extra squawk. I refer to this as "digital lint" - needs to be swept up and tossed out.

I am not counting in this category those folks who want us to know in general how fast they are driving by sending along a whine on their

signal. In Atlanta traffic it is going to be a low pitched whine anyway. But still... what of good operating practices? Or would it be appropriate to give RS and T to a VHF question "How do I sound?" ("Got a little 1800 RPM whine in there but other than that OK.").

Eating while rag-chewing. If I even have to explain this one you either a) don't listen much during the morning drive-time or b) do it yourself and know who you are. Either way, if I have to explain it then it really does not matter. I will say only this, I am NOT going to be buying a used rig from a person that does this. (smack smack smack - do these people even have teeth?). I don't want to use a mike someone has been blowing food into. ■

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MEETING NOTICE - THURSDAY FEB 5, 2009



TH F6A



Finally, the Amateur Handheld that everyone has been waiting for, the New Kenwood TH-F6A. The TH-F6A is a 144/220/440 MHz transceiver/receiver with dual-channel RX capability in a compact and powerful design. The first Tri-Band HT with 3 bands you can operate EVERY DAY! The TH-F6A boasts a list of unique features the competition is still scratching their heads over.

KENWOOD
Listen to the Future